

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicants' representative conducted a telephonic interview with Examiners Yoo and Coburn on October 17, 2007. Applicants' representative and the Examiners discussed the claim limitation "altering game play." Applicants' representative explained that "altering game play" was directed to changing the play of the game. Applicants' representative provided examples of altering game play to include adding a bonus symbol to the game, adding another payline that would not otherwise be available in the base game, or providing an additional draw of a card. Applicants' representative explained that free play of additional games does not alter game play as the game is played the same way in the normal game and in any free games. However, Examiner Yoo submitted that "altering game play" reads on altering a payable. Applicant's representative did not agree with this interpretation as altering the payable does not change the way the game is played, but only changes the payout of a winning outcome (i.e., typically increasing the payout by multiples of the wager). In view of advancing prosecution of the case, Applicants' representative and the Examiners agreed to further define "altering game play" to include changing the rules of the game by adding additional features to the game. Applicants' representative and the Examiners agreed that "altering game play," as explained by the Applicants' representative, is not disclosed in the Walker reference. Applicants' representative and the Examiners agreed that the proposed claims submitted by the Applicants' representative would overcome the Walker '972 reference and thereby advance prosecution of the pending application. However, no agreement as to the allowance of the claims was reached.